

# DRAFT

## AmeriCorps\*VISTA Progress Report

**Legal Applicant:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

**Project Name:** Wisconsin DPI VISTA Project

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**Grant Number:** 06VSNWI009

**Period Covered by this Report:**

**From: 04/01/2010 to 06/30/2010**

### Data Updates

# of VISTA Members on board at end of reporting period	20
# of Community Volunteers serving who are Baby Boomers	65
Dollar value of cash resources developed by VISTA Members	15795
# of Service Hours performed by Community Volunteers	1176
Dollar value of non-cash resources developed by VISTA Members	4832
# of VISTA Members supported by cost share	0
# of Community Volunteers serving	344

### Member and Sponsor Development

	Americorps *VISTA Members	Supervisors	CNCS Funded	Funded by Other Source	Comments
On-Site Orientation	0	0	N	N	
Community Outreach	20	20	Y	Y	
Community Volunteer Generation/Recruitment	5	20	Y	N	
Effective Volunteer Management	3	20	Y	N	
Resource Mapping	0	0	N	N	
Resource Development/Fundraising	15	5	Y	N	
Grant Writing	0	15	Y	N	
Organizational Development	20	20	Y	N	
Performance Measures	20	20	Y	N	
Tracking Systems	20	20	Y	N	
Information Technology	20	30	Y	N	
Developing On-Site Orientations and Training Plans	1	15	Y	N	
Other (Please Specify)	40	13	Y	Y	NEA Family Engagement Summit, WI Service Conference, Summer VISTA PSO, VISTA Sponsor Meeting

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### Project Plan

Service Category: Other Education

#### Performance Milestone

##### Milestone

All sites establish Action Teams for Partnerships to facilitate family involvement at the site.

##### Planned Period of Accomplishment

September 2009-December 2009

##### Actual Period of Accomplishment

December 2009

##### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Action Teams for Partnerships are established and members recruited.

##### Target # (number) or % (percent)

100 %

##### Actual # or % to date

100 %

##### How Measured

Sign-in sheet

##### Description of Data Collection

Membership lists will be submitted with bi-weekly and quarterly reports, which includes at least 1 administrator, 2 parents, 2 teachers, and 2 others.

##### Progress this Reporting Period

All July, August, and November start school-based VISTAs are working with Action Teams to facilitate family partnerships. These teams include parents, teachers, community members and often students. Action Team establishment is key to sustainability and the key to improving student achievement in schools and districts. VISTAs established these teams by connecting the work with existing groups such as Site Councils (Sylvia Sedrak, Wausau) and REACH Teams (Tracy Steffens, Oshkosh). Ellen Carpenter in Madison recently launched an Action Team at a new school, Sennett Middle School, which has already started meeting over the summer.

#### Performance Milestone

##### Milestone

VISTAs map community assets and collect data on their site's climate to connect partnership work among all stakeholders.

##### Planned Period of Accomplishment

August 2009-October 2009

##### Actual Period of Accomplishment

October 2009

##### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

% of VISTAs who submit community asset maps to DPI.

##### Target # (number) or % (percent)

100 %

##### Actual # or % to date

100 %

##### How Measured

Community Partner Survey

##### Description of Data Collection

community asset mapping will be completed by all VISTAs using tools distributed at Orientation. Results of mapping will be submitted with Quarterly Reports.

##### Progress this Reporting Period

All VISTAs have submitted Asset Maps.

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### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

VISTAs will research, write, and submit grants to sustain programs beyond their service year.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

August 2009-August 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

August 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Number of grants submitted.

#### Target # (number) or % (percent)

20 #

#### Actual # or % to date

20 #

#### How Measured

Sustainability Checklist

#### Description of Data Collection

Pre/post surveys, bi-weekly and quarterly reports, and community asset map will also be used.

Twenty grants will have been written and submitted by VISTAs in our project. This is roughly one grant per VISTA.

#### Progress this Reporting Period

4 new grants were submitted this quarter by VISTAs, two of which were Pepsi Refresh grants to provide up to \$5,000 for supplies or materials at the schools. One Refresh grant was written by Tracy Steffens in Oshkosh to help fund an after school program. Abby Churchill, serving at UW-Madison Education Outreach and Partnerships, received a \$10,000 grant from the WI Environmental Education Board to help fund scholarships for low income students to attend the summer Science on Wheels program at her site. Kristine Nadolski, in Wausau, received a \$2500 grant from the Wausau School Foundation to expand their district wide parent education program.

### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

Sites will implement family-school-community practices that help families make a connection to their children's learning.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

August 2009-August 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

August 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Number of activities/practices implemented.

#### Target # (number) or % (percent)

120 #

#### Actual # or % to date

160 #

#### How Measured

Activity log

#### Description of Data Collection

Action Plans and agendas of activities, as well as project descriptions, will be submitted by the VISTAs in bi-weekly and quarterly reports. Each VISTA will coordinate at least six family-school-community events or initiatives throughout the year.

#### Progress this Reporting Period

All VISTAs were engaged in implementing some kind of partnership activity this quarter; most related to end of the year wrap ups, evaluation and reflection, or celebrations. Stephanie Dorman and her action team in West Allis organized a May Reading Challenge for students who read at least 100 pages in one month to be entered in a

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Brewer's ticket drawing. Anna Morgen continued a program established by the previous VISTA- Summer Storytime in the Park- where families and children attend outdoor storytimes over the summer months and receive free books and literacy kits. These are held twice a week. Hannah Schulz, working at the Indian Community School in Franklin, helped to organize a Summer Resource Fair for families to learn about free and cost effective options over the summer in the Milwaukee area.

### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

Sites will have an identified process for partnerships that includes the Action Team for Partnerships.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

July 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

July 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Percent of Action Teams that have started work on next year action plan.

#### Target # (number) or % (percent)

100 %

#### Actual # or % to date

100 %

#### How Measured

NA

#### Description of Data Collection

VISTAs will ensure that Year-end UPDATE surveys and Action Plans are submitted to DPI.

#### Progress this Reporting Period

All existing action teams have submitted action plans and UPDATE forms to DPI.

### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

More families and community members will feel welcome in their children's school, have an understanding of the importance of being involved in their children's learning, and know how to participate to help their children.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

October 2009 and July 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

July 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Increase in the percent of families indicating positive attitudes on end of year survey

#### Target # (number) or % (percent)

20 %

#### Actual # or % to date

20 %

#### How Measured

Pre/Post test

#### Description of Data Collection

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VISTAs will survey at least 25 parents at the beginning of the school year to determine base-line data and survey 25 parents again at the end of the school year to determine progress. At least 20% more parents will indicate a positive increase.

### Progress this Reporting Period

Surveys collected from VISTA sites indicated a positive increase in perceptions of the family-friendliness of the school. Stephanie Dorman in West Allis reported that 100% of survey respondents indicated that the activities offered "exceeded" or "met" expectations for helping families link to student learning. Over 60% of staff who completed an end of year survey indicated that there were more opportunities for genuine family involvement than the previous year. Kristine Nadolski reports that 100% of parent survey respondents indicated that YES they would attend future events held by the district's new parent education program if offered again in the future. Additionally, on a district wide survey, over 80% of parents indicated that school staff are "always" friendly when they visit the school and 80% indicated that they "always" feel welcome in their children's school. Finally, 74% responded that they "always" feel supported by the school as a parent. At the Indian Community School in Franklin, 86% of parents said there was "more" opportunity for genuine family involvement THIS year than last year. On a district level survey with the School District of Rhinelander, 100% of respondents said there was the same or more opportunities to connect with their children's learning than the previous year.

### The community need statement

From the research we know that when families are involved in their children's learning, students from all backgrounds, but especially low-income students, do better in school. They earn better grades, stay in school longer and go on to post-secondary education. We also know that the more parents can advocate for their children, the better their children do in school and the longer they stay in school (Epstein and Henderson, et. al.). VISTAs focus on schools identified for improvement (SIFI) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. When students perform better in school and successful graduate from high school, increasing amounts of economic opportunity will be open to them. Additionally, because Wisconsin has been identified as having the largest achievement gap between students of color and their white peers, strong family partnerships is one way we can improve the educational experiences of all students and families.

### Goal Statement

The goal of the DPI VISTA Project is to build capacity for family involvement in low-income schools and communities by implementing a research-based, sustainable process for partnerships.

## Performance Milestone

### Milestone

All VISTAs will coordinate family partnership activities that address the cultural and racial diversity of the site.

### Planned Period of Accomplishment

August 2009-August 2010

### Actual Period of Accomplishment

August 2010

### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Each VISTA will help facilitate at least ONE activity that provides opportunity for cultural exchange among families, students, staff, and community members at site.

### Target # (number) or % (percent)

20 #

### Actual # or % to date

23 #

### How Measured

Activity log

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### Description of Data Collection

Action Plans and agendas of activities, as well as project descriptions, will be submitted by the VISTAs in bi-weekly and quarterly reports.

### Progress this Reporting Period

Three of our VISTAs attended the White Privilege Conference in La Crosse this past April, a national conference that for the first time was held in Wisconsin. One VISTA, Becky Smith in Madison, held a meeting with staff and the principal at her site to share important resources, information, and materials she received at the conference. Additionally, Sylvia Sedrak in Wausau organized a series of cooking classes for staff and families to allow them to share cultural dishes and recipes.

### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

VISTAs will solicit monetary and in kind donations to enable low income families to attend events and participate in partnership activities.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

August 2009-August 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

August 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

Number of donations received.

#### Target # (number) or % (percent)

50 #

#### Actual # or % to date

125 #

#### How Measured

NA

### Description of Data Collection

Each VISTA will receive at least two monetary or in kind donations throughout the course of the year. Bi weekly reports will be used to collect this information from each VISTA member.

### Progress this Reporting Period

VISTAs continue to connect with local businesses and organizations for donations and in kind gifts. Ellen Carpenter in Madison received over \$600 of in kind donations for her Latino Family Fiesta. Sara Hubin received over \$1500 worth of in in kind donations for the Lakeland Family Resource Center's Silent Auction. Finally, Brittany Williams, serving with the WEOP program, received almost \$1,000 worth of donations for the GEAR UP's Family Fun Night.

### Performance Milestone

#### Milestone

VISTAs will help sites in "meeting the challenges" of developing meaningful, reciprocal family partnerships.

#### Planned Period of Accomplishment

July 2010

#### Actual Period of Accomplishment

July 2010

#### Indicator/Evidence of Progress

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At least 75% of our sites will indicate making at least "good progress" on meeting the partnership challenges at their sites.

**Target # (number) or % (percent)**

75 %

**Actual # or % to date**

80 %

**How Measured**

Survey

**Description of Data Collection**

Data will be collected from the NNPS UPDATE survey each site must submit by June 30th.

**Progress this Reporting Period**

80% of our sites, on their annual UPDATE survey, reported making at least good progress in meeting the challenges to meaningful family partnerships. These challenges include 1)reaching families who do not speak english, 2) preparing teachers to work with families, 3) recruiting parents and community members as volunteers, 4) identifying a budget for family partnerships, 5) conducted family surveys and 6) posting partnership information on website.

## Narratives

### Challenges

Our biggest challenge this quarter was realizing that we are quickly coming to the end of our Recovery grant. This grant allowed us to do important work in public libraries across the state. Without the recovery grant we will not be able to continue the efforts of most of our library sites though we have allocated three of our classic sites to libraries.

However, jobs recovery and economic development is something all communities in Wisconsin are in need of and all of our Recovery VISTAs have had a big impact on their sites.

It will be a challenge for us to continue with only a small number of library sites as most VISTAs will be working on family-school-community partnerships. It will be important to provide library specific resources to our new VISTAs and help connect them with consultants at DPI who will be able to provide more specific technical assistance.

We hope we can highlight our Recovery sites as models of economic development and encourage our school VISTAs to consider incorporating job skills development into their work with families.

### Recruitment

We had a very successful quarter with regards to recruitment and hired 12 new VISTAs to begin in July and August. These VISTAs will serve in Madison, Milwaukee, Wausau, Beloit, Racine, Franklin, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, and Ashland. We have also hired 18 summer VISTAs to serve at current and new sites throughout the state.

Our VISTA Leader, Pen Bruskin, did an outstanding job with recruitment, having screened each candidate, provided resources, and answered any questions that came up.

Our 12 new full year VISTAs are: Kristen Donat, Michael Valente, Angie Domagalski, Emily Caragianis, Bethany Bridges, Amanda Vandehey, Amanda Shapiro, Heather Keyes, Katrina Waldron, Kathy Lewis, Emily Minerath and Amber Richardson.

We are excited about the high quality candidates we have coming on board this coming year and about the new communities we will be working with (Ashland, Racine, and Beloit).

Due to feedback from our VISTA focus group, we are communicating with our new VISTAs early and often to help prepare them for PSO and to begin their service. We send out welcome packets with information on our project, what to expect, their work plan, and other FAQs. We also send materials, books, and a monthly planner with important dates pre-marked.

Finally, we have matched each new VISTA up with a VISTA "buddy" as a support system. The buddy is available for any questions about VISTA life, living on the stipend, etc.

### Training/Technical Assistance Needs

The feedback we received this quarter in terms of training and technical assistance will allow us to re-tool our professional development offerings and trainings for the next year. Specifically, VISTAs and Advisory Board members recommended providing training (via webinar) on 1) branding VISTA and 2) evaluation. We plan to offer topical webinars this coming year around a theme each month- starting with these two topics. The rest of the webinars will be structured with either a brainstorming session or success sharing. VISTAs indicated that this would be the best use of their time each month.

Also, VISTAs and the Advisory Board expressed the need for increased technical assistance in supervisor accountability. Though supervisors submit reports, there was concern over their continued commitment. We plan to offer a separate supervisor track at our Fall Orientation and offer three teleconferences over the course of the year. Additionally, the Project Coordinator will do regular check-in calls with all supervisors and may possibly ask them to complete their own report each quarter on their progress as supervisors. We will continue to ask that they submit verification of a completed OSOT at the beginning of the year as well as our Get to Know Your Site form.

### Partnership/Collaboration Development

In an effort to partner with other VISTA sponsors across the state, DPI helped to organize a VISTA sponsor meeting, held in Madison in early June. At this meeting, VISTA sponsors agreed to meet again in August and began initial planning for a statewide VISTA Supervisor Networking meeting.



## Narratives

We plan to continue our collaboration with these other VISTA Sponsors and hope to reach more. This partnership will help us share resources with one another and provide our members and supervisors with a statewide network of support. The flyer for this meeting is attached.

Additionally, we continue to partner with the State Office and Wisconsin Campus Compact to plan a statewide In Service Training in September. This training is open to all VISTAs in the state and will offer training in leadership, poverty awareness, cultural competency, grant writing and volunteer management. We feel this opportunity will allow our VISTAs to develop regional networks and feel part of a statewide movement. A draft agenda is attached.

In late June, DPI's VISTA Project held an Advisory Board meeting with several new members. Many of these members are DPI staff from other teams including Finance, Student Support, Prevention and Wellness, and the Office of Educational Accountability. In addition to DPI staff we had VISTAs, alums, and supervisors present. We hope that through our expanded Advisory Board, we can partner with more DPI staff in an effort to promote the VISTA project agency wide and garner more support and buy-in. The board members provided excellent feedback and insight into our project and we plan to implement new ideas this coming year including improving our messaging around VISTA and equipping the VISTAs with more tools to promote VISTA in their communities. The advisory board will also review our grant renewal and provide comments and feedback and will reconvene in the spring.

We also hope to bring in the parent perspective through DPI's Parent Advisory Corps which will meet quarterly to provide input to the State Superintendent. This corps has a diverse group of parents with regards to income and race. Two of our VISTA members will be representatives on this board and many other members were recommended by other VISTA members.

Finally, we continue to collaborate with our members in project management and development. We held our annual VISTA Focus Group this quarter in order to solicit specific recommendations from select members. Members provided feedback on our program, our communication methods, our reporting tools and other aspects of the program. Our new VISTA Leaders were present and will be working to help improve the program once they begin their service in late August. It is important that we continue to seek the member voice and perspective not only to secure their buy-in but to ensure that our program is meeting their needs. This is the third annual focus group.

## Resource Development

VISTAs typically generate the following kinds of resources for their sites: in kind donations, grants, and volunteers.

Several of our VISTAs submitted grants this quarter to help sustain or expand their programs. Abby Churchill received a \$10,000 grant from the WI Environmental Education Board to help provide scholarships to low income students to attend a summer science on wheels program. Kristine Nadolski received a \$2,500 grant from the Wausau School Foundation to expand the parent education program that she helped to create and implement.

Two of our VISTAs had outstanding quarters in regards to receiving donations. Brittany Williams secured nearly \$1,000 for prizes, food, and other supplies for GEAR UP's first annual Family Fun Night. These prizes helped to bring families to the event and ensure access to free food and activities. Additionally, Sara Hubin secured \$1500 for a silent auction at the Lakeland Family Resource Center. These donations were auctioned off to help raise funds for the Center's programs.

Finally, all together VISTAs have recruited 344 volunteers this quarter who have served almost 1200 hours. These volunteers, through their attendance at events, programs, and other activities have served almost 3,000 people in communities across the state.

## Sustainability

Sustainability is an ongoing training topic with all of our VISTAs and Supervisors. As mentioned, we have facilitated a webinar on this topic for all members. It was also the focus of our bi-monthly teleconference with supervisors earlier in the year.

Additionally, we maintain the section in our bi-weekly and quarterly reporting forms that asks how VISTAs are addressing sustainability on an ongoing basis. This has allowed us to monitor the kinds of challenges and successes VISTAs are having with sustaining their work. VISTAs are addressing this through recruiting volunteers, establishing action teams/advisory boards, and writing grants, primarily. Many are also working to connect with other community groups with similar purposes

## Narratives

and vision. This has been a successful strategy. For instance, VISTAs are encouraged to work closely with PTAs, PTOs and PTCs at their sites in order to develop buy-in and build capacity for family partnerships.

Finally, we distributed Sustainability Worksheets in June which are used to document resources and tips VISTAs have learned to share with incoming VISTAs or staff. The prompts we ask them to complete are as follows:

Looking back, these are some things I wish I knew when I was getting started.....

When I first started my service, these resources were invaluable to me. I really relied on these people and these things to get me through.....

I learned a lot from my year of service. Here are a few of my lessons learned.....

Also, I want to provide you with my best tips for how to do your work effectively.....

During my year of service, I have really started to think of the big picture in terms of sustainability. So far, I think these efforts and initiatives (i.e. volunteer recruitment and fundraising) show the most promise and progress.....

After serving at this site for a year, I consider these to be some possible next steps to help sustain the work VISTAs have done.....

## Multi-Site Performance

The data and stories we are sharing this quarter indicate the performance of all of our sites. Due to solid progress made this year, we will be continuing the following sites:

Milwaukee Public Schools Central Office  
Parents Plus  
Madison School District  
West Allis-West Milwaukee School District  
Wausau School District  
Indian Community School  
Grove Elementary School, WI Rapids  
Washington Elementary School, Oshkosh  
Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program

Due to a weak alignment with our project goals we are NOT continuing to provide a VISTA to these sites: UW-Madison Education Outreach and Partnerships Office and Lakeland Family Resource Center. Though their VISTAs worked hard this year to establish partnerships to benefit low income community members and families, the organization itself is not meeting the goals of our project. We will continue to provide resources to these organizations as a state agency, but have decided to not place a VISTA at either site.

There are several other sites where we are no longer placing a VISTA but this is due to lack of need. The following sites have hosted VISTAs for at least 2 years (some 3) and established a solid foundation for sustainability: Maple Tree Elementary School, Milwaukee, U.S. Grant Elementary School, Milwaukee, School District of Rhinelander, Wausau Early Childhood Program, and School of Urban Planning and Architecture, Milwaukee. These sites have teams in place to help sustain the work of the VISTA and two (Maple Tree and Grant) have a staff person hired now to serve as the Parent Coordinator.

Additionally, the performance of all of our sites is informed and guided by the communication tools and methods we have developed at DPI including:

Bi-Weekly Reports  
Quarterly Reports  
Written feedback on reports  
DPI VISTA Project Google Site  
Monthly Teleconferences/Webinars

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## Narratives

VISTA Project list-serv  
Statewide VISTA list-serv  
Monthly Newsletters  
Mystery VISTA of the Month contest  
Check-in phone calls/emails from Project Coordinator and VISTA Leader  
Site Visits  
Conferences and other professional development opportunities

Finally, we continue to distribute "VISTA Voices", which is a summary of all VISTAs' bi-weekly activities. This resource comes out every two weeks from our VISTA Leader to select DPI staff, all VISTAs and all supervisors.

### Other Accomplishments

The following are quotes VISTAs have collected from staff, parents, or community members they work with regarding their efforts or programs.

Quotes submitted by VISTA Becky Smith at Leopold Elementary in Madison.

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Becky,  
Thank you so much for your work with bringing the Badger Band to our Walking School Bus. What an exciting event for our community! - Laura Huber, Assistant Principal

---

You rock! Thanks for all your phenomenal work!

John - Principal

---

Becky,

Nice job!

Dawn - parent

---

good job!!!! -- Mary Conner, Librarian

---

Rebecca,

I love that the band is walking kids to school Tuesday. That is such an awesome idea and I'm walking for sure. Thank you for your great ideas, Leopold will miss you next year.

Lisa Shebesta -- parent

---

Becky,

Congratulations again on being the first school in the District to implement a WSB (Walking School Bus). Hopefully it will inspire others to participate.

Steve Meiers -- City of Madison Safety Instructor

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"This was the best breakfast ever, I am going to remember this forever." - Student

(talking about the Badger Band playing in the cafeteria during breakfast)

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"Did you have fun today on the walking school bus?" - Teacher

"The walking school bus is always fun!" - Student

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## Narratives

Quote submitted by Sylvia Sedrak with the Wausau Early Childhood Program:

"I don't know what Kiefer will do without you next year" --Staff and Parents  
\*\*\*\*\*

Quotes Submitted by Brittany Williams with the WEOP Program:

on the Family Fun Night:  
"The opportunity for families to gather together was altogether magnificent."  
"This was great quality time well spent!"  
  
\*\*\*\*\*

Quotes Submitted by Casey Burns with Milwaukee Public Schools:

"This was my first time coming to this event and I plan to attend more of them. There's lots of information and things I didn't know about."  
"I would recommend the workshops to any parent in Milwaukee because it helps a lot when it comes to your child's education."  
  
\*\*\*\*\*

Quote from Sara Hubin at the Lakeland Family Resource Center:

"You will be an asset no matter where you end up, they were blessed to have you"  
\*\*\*\*\*

Quotes from Tracy Steffens at Washington Elementary School in Oshkosh:

I received my spring family survey back and there were a lot of great comments in response to the question "What activities would you enjoy doing with your child at school functions?"

"Spending time with my kids is enough school functions just add to those."

"Any family fun activity."

"Thanks for all your hard work!"

While our floors are being waxed, I have been working at the public library and have run into parents with their students. Many of them have been commenting on the Community Resource board that I worked on over the academic year and how great it was.

As well as families at the library, one of my major partners from the Oshkosh Public Library has stated how great it is to be involved with the elementary school closest to the Public Library. This, along with my discussion with the Fond du Lac VISTAs has inspired me to work hard to ensure that every student at Washington Elementary School has a library card by the end of the school year.

## Stories

VISTA: Ellen Carpenter  
Site: Nuestro Mundo School, Madison Metropolitan School District (Madison, WI)

## Narratives

On Tuesday, April 13th, the Casa de San Martín Service Project began with the 2nd grade students of Nuestro Mundo. Ellen sent home flyers explaining what the project entailed, asking for food donations, and recruiting parent and community volunteers to help with each day that we sent students to the St. Martin House to volunteer. Each grade, except kindergarten, is scheduled to visit the site and volunteer for one day. On the 13th, Ellen met about 8 parent volunteers at the site at 10am, gave them a brief orientation (along with Steve Maurice -- the St. Martin House Director), and assigned tasks for the day. The students arrived at 11am, received instructions, and got into different task groups. Led by an adult, each group of students did a task to prepare for the meal (i.e., setting tables, cooking soup, preparing the salad, preparing desserts, decorating, preparing the beverages). Then, they took a break to eat lunch before the St. Martin House guests arrived. Upon arrival, students were assigned to more tasks (i.e., serving soup, salad, desserts, & beverages, greeting guests, doing dishes, stocking the food pantry). The students and teachers then did a bit of clean-up and left to board the bus while there were a few parent volunteers who stayed behind to finish cleaning the facilities. The Casa de San Martín service project was scheduled for April 13th, April 20th, April 27th, May 4th, & May 18th. Ellen successfully led the volunteers at each of these volunteer dates.

VISTA: Becky Smith

Site: Leopold Elementary, Madison Metropolitan School District (Madison, WI)

The adult ESL classes occurred this period for Leopold parents. These parents attended an evening class at the school twice a week for two hours each class. The adults learned basic and intermediate English skills with an emphasis on their child's school and education. Child care was also provided to make this event even more accessible to parents who are unable to find childcare.

VISTA: Hannah Schulz

Site: Indian Community School (Franklin, WI)

Hannah worked on recruiting community agencies and organizations to attend the Indian Community School's Summer Resource Fair that was held simultaneously with Parent/Teacher conferences. She called native organizations and other local agencies to see if they would be willing to have a representative attend the fair and pass out information regarding any summer programming that they offer. She also sent event flyers home with every child to advertise the event, as well as putting notices in the school newsletter and on the school's all-call phone system. The school had over 25 agencies with representatives at the event and had a good chunk of families attend the event. Indian Community School is hoping to organize something similar earlier in the school year next year to make families aware of the opportunities offered at various locations during the school year.

VISTA: Sylvia Sedrak

Site: Wausau Early Childhood Program (Wausau, WI)

The Wausau Early Childhood Program collaborated with the School Forest, and two local businesses to provide a volunteer appreciation night. They collaborated with many businesses and community members to produce a "Cultural Carnival" Family Night. The Center for Visual Arts helped out tremendously with the crafts. The program's education specialist was able to provide ethnic craft ideas and made samples for them at a low cost. Local restaurants also provided a taste of various ethnic cuisines for families in attendance. In addition, college students and other community members shared their ethnicities bringing the Wausau community and all its diverse attributes to the event.

## Attachments and Links

Summer VISTA Project webpage on Google Site

<http://sites.google.com/site/dpivistaproject/summer-vista-project>

Mystery VISTA of the Month:

<http://sites.google.com/site/dpivistaproject/home/mystery-vista-of-the-month>

Program Evaluations/end of year surveys from Abby Churchill, Stephanie Dorman, Anna Morgen, and Hannah Schulz

Sustainability Worksheet Template

## Narratives

April, May and June Newsletter  
<http://dpi.wi.gov/fscp/vnwsltrhm.html>

Leopold Elementary School Blog (scroll to May 18)  
<http://leopoldelementary.blogspot.com/>

Script from Bullying DVD created by Nicole Stachurski and students at Grove Elementary School in Wisconsin Rapids.

IST Agenda

VISTA Sponsor Networking Flyer